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450101-02950

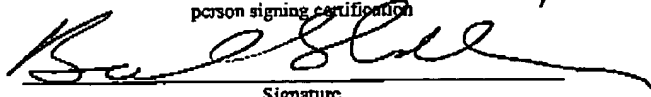
MAY 31 2006

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : FUKUDA, Kei *et al.* Notice of Allowance  
Appl. No. : 09/937,463 Dated: 05/02/2006  
Filed : September 24, 2001 Confirmation No. 9482  
Title : **INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND PROCESSING  
METHOD, AND PROGRAM STORAGE**  
Art Unit : 2178  
Examiner : HUYNH, Cong Lac T.

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151**FACSIMILE**

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May 31, 2006

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**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

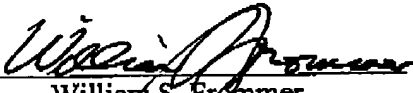
This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed May 2, 2006. To the extent the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be

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interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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